

The Washington Press

THE ALAMEDA COUNTY PRESS

California Farmer Section
Associated

FARM SECTION

NILES, ALAMEDA CO., CAL., FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1914.

FARM SECTION

A TRACTOR FARMING SCENE IN OREGON



Our illustration conveys a clear understanding of the power required to reduce virgin soils and shows a Rumley Type "E" 30-60 Oil Pull Tractor pulling a 6-bottom engine gang plow, spring tooth harrow and disc harrow. This outfit belongs to W. A. Jones of [redacted], and the tractor is breaking that toughest of sods, the famous "nigger."

THE FLOWER GARDEN

MISCELLANEOUS INSECTS.

The Rose Aphid—The rose aphids are the soft bodied sucking plant lice, green or pink in color, that thickly infest the young shoots and buds of the rose during the entire year, and especially in April and May. Washing the bushes with a high pressure of water will knock many of them off, and a soap solution or tobacco spray applied as frequently as necessary will easily destroy them.

The Rose Scale—The small whitish scales when thickly massed give to the rose, raspberry and blackberry canes a conspicuous appearance. All stages occur practically throughout the year

and as the eggs are hard to kill, successive sprayings with kerosene emulsion are necessary to control it. Badly infested canes should be cut off and burned.

If you see a little green worm one-eighth of an inch long, with a white thread-like stripe down its back, on your house plants infected with green lice (aphis), don't kill it—it is your best friend.

It will leave of its own free will as soon as it has cleared your plant of the little green pests.



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FLOWER PHILOSOPHY.

The Culture of Tuberous Begonias Well Repays the Trouble and Expense Necessary.

By Philip Henderson.

BEGONIAS of all kinds appeal to almost all flower lovers and are much easier to grow than is popularly believed. Of course they will not grow and bloom in frosty or dry situations, but in moist climates not too warm and not too cold they will thrive out of doors and return great satisfaction and pleasure to the grower for the care given them.

There are many varieties of the foliage and flowering fibrous-rooted begonias which are becoming more and more improved and their possibilities understood, not only by the professional florists but by thousands who find pleasure in their culture in their gardens and greenhouses.

A Comparatively New Sort.—The tuberous-rooted begonias are yet new to perhaps most flower growers, at least they are not successfully grown in ordinary flower gardens to any great extent.

This condition is possibly due to a lack of knowledge of the requirements necessary for their best growth. In the garden a moist—not wet—situation with partial shade, with loose leaf-moldy soil will bring some wonderfully fine flowers. Some of the best ever may be seen each year in the Del Monte grounds at Monterey, that is, for size and color. Personally, a display of more flowers and not so large would be more agreeable.

Of course the climate at Del Monte is very suitable for begonias for the display of bedding varieties about the hotel is often worth a trip down there to see.

Begonias in Pots.—When a garden is not available tuberous begonias may be grown in pots with good success but like most other pot-grown flowers the care of them is necessarily increased, particularly when a greenhouse which may be regulated nicely as to heat and moisture is not available.

However, if pots it must be, then plant in larger pots than ordinarily used in order to keep a more even supply of moisture about the roots.

Plant the bulb not too deep, neither on top of the soil as some do. A covering of one-half inch is sufficient.

The composition of the soil is important and it should be of about equal parts of sandy loam and leaf mold. If it feels too light, a condition which is easily detached by handling with the bare hands, the addition of a little heavy soil or even manure will improve it.

After blooming gradually dry off and store them as they are in a cool and dry dark place, that they may become thoroughly dormant and have a long rest before blooming time again.

When starting they should be brought into moisture and light gradually imitating as nearly as may be the coming of spring and summer weather.

PLAN THE FLOWER GARDEN.

Making plans whereby the care of farm or orchard may be most systematically and therefore more economically done, is a part of every good farmer's work. He knows from experience that he must drive his work or it will drive him.

Poor planning or more often no planning but a haphazard planting of the flower garden, is a common sight, and were it not for the presence of the beautiful flowers pushing their way above the weeds the whole affair would be a detriment to the home.

It is far better to plant in rows far enough apart so that a cultivator may be used than to plant in masses and allow the weeds to cover the plants.

Flowers See and Hear.—M. Jean Vianet-Bruant, who is one of the most famous French horticulturists, has just published a little book on flowers, in which he advances the theory, that flowers both see and hear. As a young man, he says, he began to study flowers, for which he always had a passion, and he sought to understand the life of the blooms which he cultivated. When he saw the growing plant reach out toward the necessary support he asked himself whether the action was the result of volition or whether the plant had eyes.

There are some that are sensitive to anaesthetic substances—ether in particular—which suggests the existence of a nervous system, like that of a nervous woman. And he would even credit them with something analogous to the power of speech.

DAHLIAS AND GLADIOLUS.

Some Rules for Growing Dahlias and Gladiolus for the Amateur.

(Maggie Downing Brainard.)

APRIL above all other months is the gardener's special planting and growing time. In no other month does the soil, 'wakening from its winter nap, yield so readily to attention. The sun and moon, too, are dispensing their benignest rays, and the air is full of life-giving properties, while the gardener and his plants fairly bask in the delight of living in companionship.

Amidst all this love feast it is hard to say what to plant, for annuals, shrubs and some bulbs are clamoring for equal notice. But in all this rush and hurry of digging and selecting from out of the masses, do not forget dahlias and gladioli.

For spots in green lawns, for bedding, for bordering avenues, among the roses, close to picket fences; equally as well for box culture on the porch, or a 2x3-foot back yard in a crowded city, nothing pays so well as a few cents or dollars invested in dahlia tubers and gladioli corms.

Dahlias.

Monteagle, Tenn., is the seat of one of the most popular summer schools of the Chautauqua circle, and the hard-working students are welcomed everywhere with the sight of dahlias growing in all directions.

It is a dahlia town—dahlias of every color, dahlias of every shade, dahlias that welcomed us in the sweet month of June, dahlias that bade us goodbye in the yellow October. The girl students wore them at their belts, the boys had them in their hatbands, and the meals tasted all the better for big bunches of the gorgeous flowers that graced the long tables.

How These Amateur Gardeners Raised Them.

The ground was dug over thoroughly in March. The deeper the soil was turned, the better. Soil naturally loose and rich needed only a little manure, and this was added when the tubers were planted.

Tubers, in beds, were planted from two to three feet apart each way. When the sprouts got to be four or five inches above the ground, all were cut away save one to each tuber, care being taken to leave the strongest stalks. These sprouts were let grow until about 18 inches tall, when they were topped to make the stalks branch. After a second pinching back of all the branches, which found the plants in rich luxuriance, a strong stick, say like a broomhandle, about three or four feet long, was driven at the center of each plant into the ground for the support of the plant, for you must know the flowers were multiple, large and heavy.

During early summer, or rather, late spring, the earth was constantly stirred and moderately watered. At the first sign of bud formation a dressing of manure was given, and the watering increased.

The latter part of June saw a wealth of blossoms. From that time until the frosts there was no end to the gorgeous beauties.

We Followed This Treatment.

With our own dahlias we had great success, to which our blue-ribbon certificates awarded by the county fairs testify.

Dahlias are both gormandizers and heavy drinkers. They revel in rich, deep, well-rotted, well-mixed soils, well worked and well drained. In hot localities the blooms in midsummer easily burn. Where this is true, plant the tubers late; the plants will begin flowering then in the fall, as is the case in the southern states. Cuttings in June make fine fall plants.

Gladioli.

Next best to dahlias, to our way of thinking, for cut-flowers, box or garden purposes, are gladioli.

During the winter we wrote of the soil and general treatment of these corms, so there is nothing else to say unless it be to impress upon the cultivator a necessity for selecting the best corms and for planting in a rich, sandy loam to the depth of four or five inches, according to the size of the corm. The reason for planting deep is the new corm forms on top of the old one, which rots away before blossom time. Then, again, deep planting does away with staking. It gives strength and body sufficient to the stalk to enable it to stand unaided and alone.

Gladioli better to little later corms are marketed abroad to us as a

THE FRENCH VARIETIES.

Good Table Qualities More Important Than Good Layers in France.

By Judge A. H. Currier.

FRANCE has probably more poultry breeders of experience, who have been working for years to improve the laying and table qualities of the fowl than any other country, and today the French people consume the largest amount of poultry per capita of any nation in the world. They have developed a number of varieties among the Houdans, Crevecouer, La Fleshe, La Presse and Faverolles. The Houdans are the best known in this country, having been imported as early as 1860, and stand at the head for quality table birds and prolific layers of large white eggs.

About ten years ago the Faverolles were introduced here. They were of several colors, salmon being the most popular, more attention being paid by the French people to the table qualities than color of feather markings, the French being noted as famous cooks the world over. Within the past two or three years a number of the White Faverolles have been imported and several well-known eastern breeders have taken them up here. The English standard calls for feathered shanks and five toes on each foot, but the American breeders seem to favor four toes only and clean shanks. The birds are of good size, males weighing seven to eight pounds, females four and a half to six pounds. They have beards like the old-fashioned "Muffled Chop Hens" and are an attractive bird. They lay a brown egg and make good setters and mothers. They are no doubt of first quality as table fowls, with the full, meaty breast and long body of the well-known Houdans.—Press-Democrat.

HINTS FOR DUCKRAISERS.

A hungry duck is always in good health.

The market carcass should be round, plump and fat.

Ducks fatten very rapidly. Care must be taken not to overfatten them, for when in that condition sudden fright is apt to cause their death.

In keeping ducks on land there should be a double yard for each flock, so that when one yard is being occupied the other can be sown to some green crop, which will disinfect the soil.

Ducks must be well bedded and their quarters kept absolutely clean.

Ducks cannot be taught to lay in nest boxes. They prefer dropping the eggs wherever they please and mostly at night.

The saying that the singing hen is the laying hen is very true, for if she was not in the best of health and thinking of laying she would not be singing. By the way, do we ever see half-naked hens in moulting season with small, off-colored combs going around singing?

Talks to Poultry Raisers

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DETROIT, MICH.

POULTRY.

OPEN FRONT HOUSES FOR CALIFORNIA.

By John Y. Beaty.

IN the East where winters are cold, they use the open front poultry houses so the chickens can have plenty of fresh air both winter and summer. Here in California, most growers seem to think that the chickens are out enough so that their houses don't need much, if any ventilation.

Two successful poultry raisers who are working in the other direction are Grant Helman and Joe Kinney of Petaluma. These men came to Petaluma nine years ago and bought a farm. They cut the place in two and one lives on one half and the other on the other half. Both have planned together and their results are quite similar. They are similar as far as the success of the open front houses is concerned, at least.

The first houses were patterned after the eastern houses with a door in front of the roosting board that might be let down at night. But California cli-

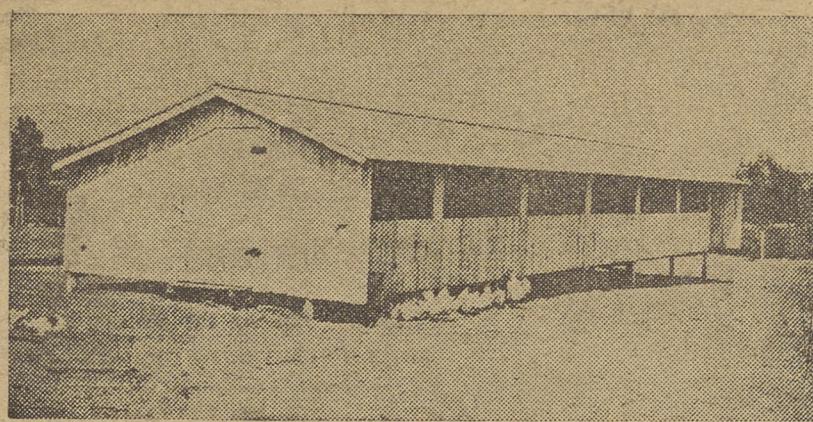
CLEAN FEED FOR POULTRY.

By Leroy V. Brandt.

THE last item of cleanliness is the matter of feed. And this item is one which should be impressed on the mind of every chicken rancher. Cleanliness in the matter of the feed goes farther towards forwarding success of poultrymen than any other one feature of the business.

To illustrate we will relate a little incident that has come within our own observation. A poultryman in the vicinity of Petaluma was short of water, and since he was using the moist mash system he found it difficult in securing enough for his feed. On visiting his place one day the writer saw him mixing his mash with the water which he had taken from the washing machine after the washing was done. This is an actual occurrence. This man was a failure as a poultryman. Is it any wonder?

The successful poultryman always gives his hens the purest water he can get, as pure as that he himself drinks. And the feed which he uses is of such quality as that which goes on



OPEN-FRONT LAYING HOUSE.

mate doesn't require this extra protection at night. The doors were never used, so when new houses were built, they were modified according to California needs. The photo reproduced herewith shows the latest open front house built by Mr. Helman.

It is 14 feet wide and 60 feet long. It was built to accommodate 500 hens, but Mr. Helman is using it for half that number and believes that the results are much better than if the hens were crowded. The house cost \$140 for material. Mr. Helman, although he has but one arm, did the work himself.

The dropping boards are raised three feet from the floor so that on rainy days the hens have the entire floor space for scratching. The front side is boarded up half way to prevent drafts from blowing on the fowls.

Most of the houses in this section face the north, but the houses on the farms of Helman and Kinney all face the south. People face their houses to the north because the winter storms come from the south. Helman says that for every week of storm there are ten of sunshine, and he wants the chickens to have that sunshine in their houses. There is no rain gets into the houses, however, because they are protected with protecting eves and wings on the ends as shown in the picture.

A GOOD LICE POWDER.

For lice in chickens the following will be found to make a very good powder and at little cost: Mix two quarts of fine road dust and one pint of tobacco dust. It is important that ingredients be in fine dust. Place in a tin can, having a perforated lid like a pepper box.

To apply, spread a newspaper on the floor to catch the surplus powder, and holding up the fowl by the legs, head downward so that the feathers will fall away from the body, dust the powder on. Rubbing the feathers slightly with the hands will cause the powder to penetrate and form a coating over the skin and destroy both the lice and the mites.

If a man is too busy to clean the poultry house once a week and whitewash it once, or twice a year he has no business keeping chickens.

Roosts should be movable so they can be taken out of the poultry house, laid on the ground and scalded thoroughly with boiling water on both sides.

Food cannot produce good results unless fowls have pure air. Impure air causes the digestive organs to become sluggish and much of the food passes through the fowls undigested.

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For Poultry

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- 5—Baby chicks thrive on it; they don't die, as they often do on "beef scraps."

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OLD-FASHIONED NOTIONS ON POULTRY RAISING THAT HAVE BEEN EXPLODED

Scientific Methods of Today Have Upset Antiquated Ideas.

By MICHAEL K. BOYER.

Poultry Editor of the Farm Journal.

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DURING the 30 or more years that I have been engaged in poultry culture as a business, I have witnessed the death of hundreds of pet theories, such as the egg-type, the nest egg, controlling sex in eggs, thunder storms destroying hatches, the presence of the male for egg production, etc. In those days nothing could have destroyed those theories, but subsequent experimenting and investigation have turned the pet ideas of our forefathers into jokes.

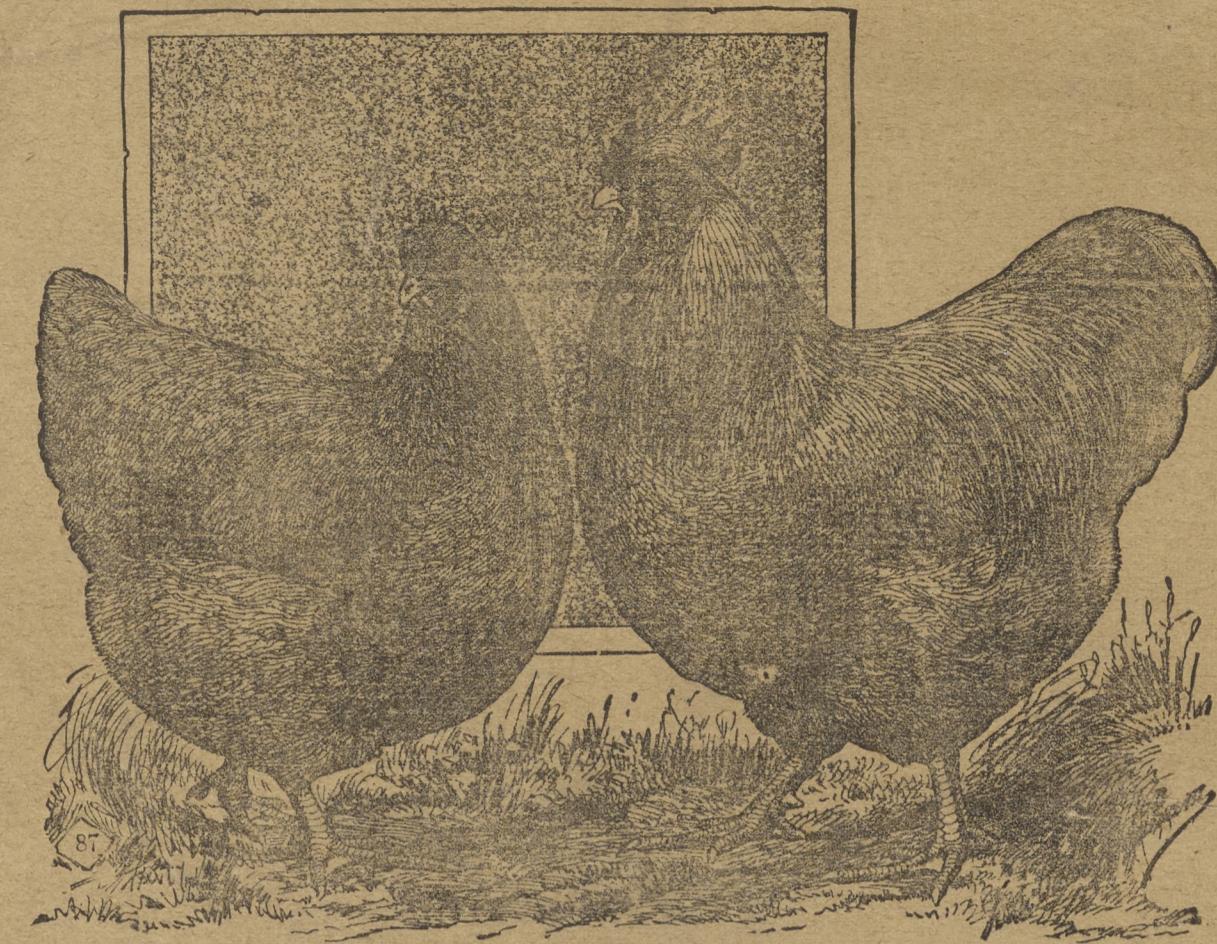
I well remember a theory my father held firmly to regarding the cause of the gape worm. He was engaged in poultry work on quite an extensive scale, about 1870. He contended that lice produced gapes. When a chick was infested with vermin they gradually crawled up to the head of the bird, entered its nostrils and got down into the throat. This caused the chick to gape—hence the name!

Another theory that is even hard to down at the present day is the nest egg. It has been contended for years, and, as I said, still upheld by certain classes, that unless there are eggs in a nest the hen will not lay. One old lady once told me that the way she induces her hens to lay plentifully is to put a half dozen china nest eggs in the nest. Old Biddy, seeing the collection, grows enthusiastic and adds another, and so on. It was not until the trap nest came into general use that this theory began to totter. Nest eggs are not used in trap nests, and our phenomenal records all come from trap-nested stock.

Males Don't Help Egg Laying.

An equally popular theory was that the presence of the male is necessary in the pen to encourage egg production. On some of the largest poultry egg farms in the country no males are kept, except in the breeding pens. If the attention of the male are necessary for egg laying, these large farms would have failed. The mission of the male is to fertilize and not make eggs.

We have a theory today that is equally as bad as any just mentioned, namely, the theory that the color of the shell indicates the richness of the contents of the egg. In some sections the demand is heavy for brown eggs, and



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SINGLE COMB BUFF ORPINGTONS.

A Great English Utility Fowl

There are 12 varieties of Orpingtons, a breed that can be called the first really general purpose fowl, noted for its laying qualities even in winter and for developing early into hardy chickens particularly suited as a table fowl.

The single-comb varieties were popular from the start and were widely

bred in England and in the American colonies. They lay brown eggs. The hens become broody, sit and rear chicks. Matured males weigh from eight to ten pounds and females from six to seven pounds. They have white skin and flesh, and excepting the blacks and blues, which have dark shanks and toes, the rest of the breed have pinkish-

white legs and toes.

The feathers are of a rich, soft, golden buff in color. The lines of the body are beautiful and their size is notable.

The buffs were the first to be given recognition by the American Poultry Association. They are adaptable to backyard flocks as well as to large poultry farms.

in others for white eggs. Each champion will declare his choice is one of fine flavor. The truth is, nothing flavors the egg but food. Would a brown egg laid by a hen that had been feasting heavily on fish, or onions, be superior to a white egg laid by a hen that was given pure, sound grain, and vice versa?

The egg-type theory received a severe knockout when the trap nest gave the phenomenal record to a Brahma hen, and subsequently to birds of the American class, and yet the famous "egg-type" was a hen in shape and style much of the Leghorn order.

For years there existed a theory that in case a heavy thunder storm arose towards the end of a hatch, all life in those eggs would be destroyed. Repeated experiments proved that such ideas were without foundation, and one of the best tests I ever knew happened while I was one year visiting poultry farm in New England. A very heavy thunder and lightning storm came up one afternoon. The thunder fairly shook the buildings. Up in the hayloft a hen had stolen a nest, and being very determined to set, the farmer had given her some eggs. The hatch was about due when this storm arose. The lightning came down and struck the barn, and within a short distance of her tore off the weatherboarding, but fortunately, did not set fire to the building. After the storm was over the farmer crept up to the loft, expecting to find Biddy dead. Instead she was peacefully setting on her eggs, and in a day or two afterwards brought out a good hatch.

As to Broody Mated Hens.

There are still many who believe that mated hens will become broody before unmated ones. I have had occasion to watch this theory for the past ten years, and have found that there is nothing to it. Each year we have quite a number of hens unmated, selling these eggs for table purposes. Carefully kept records show that we get as many broodies from our unmated flocks as we do from our breeding pens. We have also learned (we use trap nests) that the early broodies are those that have given us the heaviest egg production during the winter months.

Another old theory is that the small or "pigeon" sized egg, is the last of the litter. It was generally believed that that particular hen had wound up her laying for the season. On the contrary, our records show that two days after laying these eggs the normal size is again produced. I remember how some

of the farmers looked upon such eggs with suspicion. They were declared "unlucky" and must not be brought into the house. In order to break the spell the command was to throw them over the house chimney.

Another theory was that when the egg is smooth on the end it will produce a pullet, and when it had a zig-zag mark or quirl on one end it was sure to produce a rooster. Repeated experiments have proved that there is nothing whatever in such a belief.

No Way to Foretell Sex.

There is no method known to foretell the sex of eggs, and yet this theory dates back to the early ages. Even Columella, the grand source of poultry antiquity, wrote: "If all males are desired, set only the pointed eggs; if all females, set the rounded ones."

Another version was that eggs long and thin will produce cockerels, while the short, dumpy ones pullets. Again, it used to be claimed that eggs produced before noon are responsible for a certain sex, while those laid after noon will be of the opposite gender. Also, many formerly believed if the newly-laid egg is at once placed under incubation it will hatch a cockerel; but

if it is held for four or five days the result will be a pullet.

Also the position of the eggs in the nest determines the sex, according to old notions. Should the end of the egg point south the result will be a pullet, and if to the north, a cockerel, was another old-fashioned idea.

Ancient Roman writers asserted that the round egg produced female, and the rest males, but Aristotle believed the contrary to be the case.

Any student of embryology knows that for the first few days the chicken in embryo is sexless, and at a week old distinctly hermaphroditic—containing within itself elementary organs pertaining to both sexes. After this stage it goes in either one direction or another, one set of organs growing less while the other growing greater.

Bradshaw, an esteemed Australian authority, says that should science even triumph to the extent of bringing the sex problem outside the region of speculation, such will not be through an asexual egg, but more likely through beings who can think, speak and reason. But should such a discovery ever be made the consequence would be too terrible to contemplate.

The Greatest Prize Winners

At the Chicago Coliseum Poultry Show of December 13th, last, (the only National Official Poultry Exhibit) competent judges awarded the **Flanders' Strain of S. C. W. Leghorns**, the greatest honors ever conferred upon a poultry exhibit. Five first and 11 other high prizes. For exhibition purposes, for Eggs, Flesh and Hardiness, **Flanders' S. C. W. Leghorns** are unequalled. Write for price lists on Matings, Eggs, day-old Chicks, etc. Satisfaction guaranteed absolutely.

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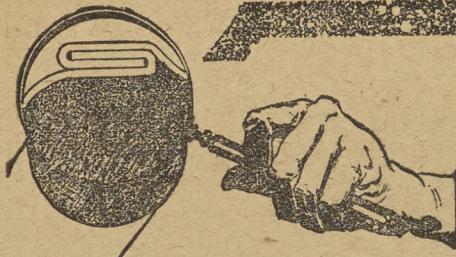
FARM SECTION

NILES, ALAMEDA CO., CAL., FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1914.

FARM SECTION



The accompanying illustration shows a Bean ten horsepower opposed engine direct connected to their centrifugal pump and mounted on a truck pumping water from a 28-foot well. This style of outfit only weighs about a ton and may thus be easily moved about from well to well or used for other purposes on the ranch.



Lock Seamed

No Solder
No Rivets

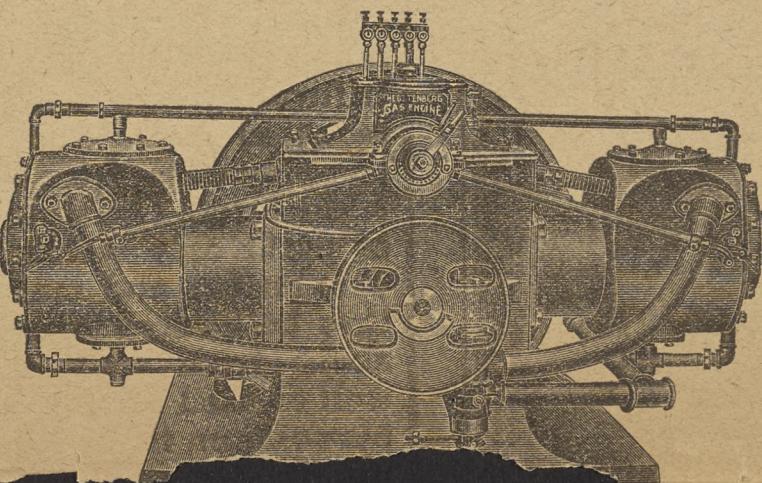
Ames Irvin Lock Seam Irrigation Pipe won first prizes against all competitors at the Sacramento State Fair in 1913 and at Fresno and San Jose County Fairs in 1912 because

Ames Irvin Irrigation Pipe

- is made without solder or rivets. Only the sheet of steel itself is used.
- the sheets are edged, locked together and set down under 3500 pounds pressure.
- the union of metal is complete. It can't leak or rust. It is simple, solid and strong.

Send for booklet. Find out all you can about irrigation pipe before you buy. Your judgment will tell you which will stand the roughest handling. Send for it today.

Ames Irvin Company
8th and Irwin Streets
San Francisco, Cal.



IRRIGATION

DECIDUOUS ORCHARD IRRIGATION.

Best Results Follow Irrigation Before Plowing Under Cover Crop.

SCARCELY two fruitgrowers have exactly the same conditions to handle when irrigating. There are so many things to be considered that a rule which may apply perfectly on one place must be somewhat modified on the next farm.

Perhaps in planning to irrigate an orchard the quantity of water that will be furnished at the highest point may be considered to be the first thing to be considered.

Given, say 800 gallons per minute, it will be easy to determine from past experience and the condition of the land, as to amount of cover crop, just about how many trees may be watered in one string of checks, if the check system is used.

Furrowing Up—With the amount of water given, it will require a little careful estimating to get best results, as to cost of water and labor, and the very best application of the water.

In my experience, when there is a good, heavy cover crop of clover, alfalfa, etc., the land will take water readily, and to get the water on evenly not more than eight trees should be included in one check. This is with the idea of wetting the ground to a depth of about six feet, which is about as far as the tree roots extend downward. If a longer string of trees is attempted, the first trees in the row will receive more water than the ones reached last, provided, of course, that the grade is even and the water is properly covering all of the space on its way down. This being settled, the furrowing-up is done by running ridges in the center of the space between the rows across the orchard one way. This completed, cross-checks or furrows are made at such distances as will enable the irrigator to distribute the water evenly with the least amount of labor. If the slope across the orchard is gradual, these cross-checks may not need to be run oftener than every three or four rows.

Secondary Ditches—With the furrowing completed, which may be done with the plow, which may be done

ground is well covered with burr clover.

Methods Changing—In early days of irrigation, it was customary to plow under all green stuff early in the spring and irrigate later, say about April 15. On some soils this method was wasteful in the extreme. It meant a loss of humus by turning under the cover crop before it was mature, necessitated one plowing which might better be avoided, made the control of the water much more difficult, prevented an even distribution of water, and leaving the soil bare, it dried out unevenly and thus made the second plowing or disking unsatisfactory.

The best practice now is to leave the cover crop until mature, say May 1 to 15, then irrigate thoroughly and plow when ready. By this method practically no moisture is lost by evaporation, as the clover which closely covers the earth protects it from sun and wind, and a longer time may be had in which to put it in first-class condition.

The Furrow System—If summer irrigation is necessary, and the ground has been graded so as to get an even fall, the furrow method is preferable. The furrows should not be made too near together, but deep enough so that a good supply of water will soak into the earth without wetting the top between furrows.

As soon as possible after irrigation a harrow or disk should be run over the ground lightly to break the surface and level the ridges. This will stop evaporation, and more thorough cultivation may follow. Very deep plowing is not desirable in any orchard, as four or five inches of finely worked soil will protect from evaporation and still admit enough air to the subsoil.

A finely pulverized surface is much to be preferred to deep cultivation, which usually leaves the soil too open to retain moisture or protect the subsoil where the feeding roots are located.

KING'S COUNTY WATER SUPPLY.

River Water and Artesian Wells Supply the Farmers With Ample Water for Irrigation.

Edward M. Heermans.